

Size: 165 acres
Mission: Tested rocket engines and exotic rocket fuels
HRS Score: 33.62; placed on NPL in July 1987
IAG Status: IAG signed in 1990
Contaminants: VOCs
Media Affected: Groundwater, surface water, sediment, and soil
Funding to Date: \$2.7 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): \$0 (FY1997)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for All Sites: NA



Malta, New York

Restoration Background

Malta Rocket Fuel Area operated as a testing facility for exotic rocket fuels and rocket engines. Its primary site types include aboveground storage tanks, underground storage tanks, dry well areas, and surface disposal areas. Environmental studies have identified groundwater and sediment contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) at the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) property.

In FY89, EPA issued a Unilateral Consent Order to eight potentially responsible parties (PRPs). In FY90, the State of New York, DoD, and a private corporation entered into an interim Participation Agreement to conduct the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The RI, completed in FY93, identified two VOCs, trichloroethene (TCE) and carbon tetrachloride, as the primary contaminants of concern in the groundwater. EPA recommended additional investigation under the RI, including test pit excavations, which were conducted in late FY93. In FY94, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed additional RI activities and submitted a revised RI report to EPA for review.

In FY95, the participating parties addressed EPA's comments, completed the RI report, began FS activities, and submitted a draft FS report to EPA for review. In addition, PRPs completed the removal of two gas cylinders and drums, and USACE awarded a contract for completing a PRP search report.

In FY96, the PRP search report was completed. USACE then formulated DoD's position and made recommendations to the Department of Justice. Participating PRPs completed the FS report.

In FY97, the Department of Justice concluded negotiations with other PRPs for DoD's share of liability. Settlement documents have been routed for final approvals.

FY98 Restoration Progress

The Department of Justice, on behalf of DoD, entered into a Consent Decree and made a payment from the Judgment Fund to the EPA Superfund. This action ended DoD's liability at the site and completed the USACE project.

FY99 FUNDING BY PHASE AND RELATIVE RISK

All sites are in the long-term monitoring phase.